

# NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## FACT SHEET

(Pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code 445A.236)

**Permittee Name:** U. S. Gypsum Company  
P. O. Box 1  
Empire, NV 89405

**Permit Number:** NEV50020

**Location:** Approximately 0.25 mile north of Empire, Washoe County, Nevada  
Township 31N, Range 23E, Section 11  
Latitude: 40° 35' 00" N  
Longitude: 119° 20' 30" W

### **General:**

The U. S. Gypsum Company operates a wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) serving the town of Empire, Nevada, in northern Washoe County. There are approximately 250 residents utilizing the facility, which was built in 1956. The treatment facility consists of two parallel treatment trains; each consists of a raw sewage lift station, an Imhoff tank, followed by a trickling filter. Effluent from the trickling filters is directed to a settling tank. Settling tank overflow is discharged to two 0.8-acre evaporation/percolation ponds. The design capacity of the facility is 60,000 gallons per day, based on each treatment train capable of serving 300 residents at a typical wastewater generation rate of 100-gallons/day/resident (Metcalf & Eddy, "Wastewater Engineering", 2003; also, "Empire Sewage Facility Operations Manual", 1994).

### **Receiving Water Characteristics:**

Depth to first groundwater in the vicinity of the facility is approximately 150 to 200 feet below surface. The groundwater gradient is to the west. The facility is within the 7000-foot buffer zones around the Empire Water Company supply wells, but is down gradient of all water supply wells. Review of Division of Water Resources well data indicate that the water supply wells are completed in a different, deeper hydrologic formation. Groundwater immediately below the facility is used only for irrigation and dust control.

### **Effluent Characteristics**

The effluent from the Empire WWTF meets the state standards for secondary treated wastewater. Average effluent characteristics include Total Suspended Solids of 11.3 mg/l, BOD<sub>5</sub> of 16.5mg/l, and pH of 7.82. Average influent flow is typically 0.028 MGD, and maximum flowrate since 2002 has been 0.048 MGD. Average and maximum daily flows are lower than the permit limitations of:

0.050 MGD 30-Day Average  
0.060 MGD Daily Maximum

**Proposed Effluent Limitations, Schedule of Compliance and Special Conditions**

Discharges from the U. S. Gypsum / Empire WWTF to groundwater of the State will be limited and monitored as follows:

<b><u>PARAMETERS</u></b>	<b><u>EFFLUENT DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS</u></b>		<b><u>MONITORING REQUIREMENTS</u></b>	
	<b>30-Day Average</b>	<b>Daily Maximum</b>	<b>Measurement Frequency</b>	<b>Sample Type</b>
Flow (Influent)	0.050 MGD	0.060 MGD	Continuous	Pump Timers
BOD <sub>5</sub> (Effluent)	30 mg/l	45 mg/l	Quarterly	Composite
TSS (Effluent)	30 mg/l	45 mg/l	Quarterly	Composite
pH (Effluent)	Between 6.0 and 9.0 SU		Quarterly	Discrete
Total Nitrogen (Effluent)	Monitor and Report (mg/l)		Semi-Annually	Discrete

**Proposed Determination**

The Division has made the tentative determination to reissue the proposed permit for a period of five (5) years.

**Rationale for Permit Requirements**

The flow is measured to verify the flow to the treatment plant is consistent with permit limitations and system design capacity. Influent and effluent BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS are monitored to verify compliance with permit limitation.

Total Nitrogen is monitored to acquire baseline information on nitrogen discharge, since there are no groundwater monitoring wells associated with this facility.

**Procedures for Public Comment:**

The notice of the Division's intent to issue a permit authorizing the facility to discharge to the groundwater of the State of Nevada subject to the conditions contained within the permit is being sent to the **Reno Gazette-Journal** for publication. The notice is being mailed to interested persons on our mailing list. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed permit can do so in writing for a period of 30 days following the date of the public notice. In order to be considered, written comments must be hand-delivered, sent via mail (postmarked), emailed or faxed no later than 5:00

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P.M. on **July 30, 2004**. The comment period can be extended at the discretion of the Administrator.

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected interstate agency, the Regional Administrator or any interested agency, person or group of persons.

The request must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reasons why a hearing is warranted.

Any public hearing determined by the Administrator to be held must be conducted in the geographical area of the proposed discharge or any other area the Administrator determined to be appropriate. All public hearings must be conducted to accordance with NAC 445.150.

The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to NRS 445.274.

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